

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King announced that a federal appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Water System was included in H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. A final House-Senate Conference Report passed the House earlier this month and passed the Senate today.

King worked with Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN), Rep. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (D-SD), Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Senator John Thune (R-SD) to secure \$10,000,000 for continued construction of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System. This funding is in addition to \$56,000,000 in funding the project received earlier this year.

Regional water problems include shallow wells, aquifers prone to contamination and drought, compliance with new federal drinking water standards and increasing water demand due to population growth and economic expansion. When completed, this facility will provide water to 20 cities and rural water systems in northwest Iowa, southeast South Dakota and southwest Minnesota.

**“Construction of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System has created almost 700 jobs in western Iowa,”** said King. **“Once completed, this system will bring about regional health benefits, increased swine and dairy yields, higher water quality and many other positive benefits for the tri-state area.”**

In requesting funding for this project, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent.

Congressman King opposed the legislation due to its total cost. Without justification, the bill nearly tripled funding levels for various government agencies funded in the bill.

The original House version of H.R. 3183 that passed the House on July 17, 2009 included \$6,000,000 for this project. That amount was increased to \$10,000,000 when delegates from the House and Senate went to conference to work out a final version of the bill which, after passing the House and the Senate, must now be signed into law by the President.